

HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF JEWS IN HUNGARY EXTERMINATED BY POGROMS AND DEPORTATIONS

GENEVA, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The first authentic report on the situation of the Jews in Budapest and other sections of Hungary since last March, when the German Army occupied the country, reached here today. The report was smuggled out of Budapest several days ago.

"The Germans," the report says, "entered Hungary on March 21, 1944 and immediately started the segregation of Jews into ghettos. This was followed by mass-deportations of Jews, so that by the middle of July not a single Jew remained in the Hungarian part of Transylvania, in the Carpathian section of the country and in southern Hungary. More than 600,000 Jews in these provinces were deported within a period of two months, most of them to the extermination camp of Oswiecim, in German-occupied Poland.

"From the city of Budapest only about 10,000 were deported at that time, while more than 250,000 Jews were herded into special 'Jewish buildings.' It was hoped that these Jews would be left alone, but the situation took a new turn in the middle of October, soon after the pro-Nazi Szalasy Government came to power."

German Tanks Attack Jewish Homes in Budapest; Thousands of Jews Killed

Acting upon the orders of Premier Szalasy and supported by German troops, Hungarian anti-Semitic Arrow Cross units carried out a pogrom on October 15, during which many thousands of Jews were massacred on the streets of Budapest, the report continues. On the pretext that Jews were hiding arms in the "Jewish buildings" Arrow Cross units invaded Jewish homes and dragged the residents into the street killing them with utmost brutality. German tanks and armored cars fired at buildings from which Jewish residents refused to leave.

On the next day, October 16, an order was issued prohibiting Jews to leave their dwellings. The order remained in force for five days, during which no Jew could secure food. It was followed by segregation of all Jews in a ghetto which was established in the section of the city around Tabak Street which is thickly-populated by Jews. The Jewish population was given several days notice to move into the ghetto premises.

Red Cross Tried to Protect 14,000 Jewish Holders of "Security Passports"

About 14,000 Jews in Budapest who were holders of Palestine emigration certificates and of "security passports" issued by the Swiss and Swedish legations were taken under the protection of the International Red Cross in Hungary. They were not ordered into the ghetto, but were kept in special houses in a fashionable section of the city, near the Margaret Bridge. It was understood that they were to be allowed to leave for neutral countries with the permission of the Hungarian authorities.

Meanwhile, the Szalasy Government issued an order conscripting all able-bodied Jews - men up to the age of 60 and women up to the age of 40 - for forced labor. It

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was indicated that 50,000 of these laborers would be sent to Germany. Actually the number deported to Germany was more than 100,000. The remaining Jews were put to work building fortifications in the vicinity of Budapest. Only children and aged persons remained in the ghetto.

Soon the Arrow Cross units, who were in charge of driving Jews to forced labor, began to hunt for Jews in the section where the holders of Palestine certificates and security passports resided. They disregarded the fact that these Jews were under the supervision of the International Red Cross. Several thousand holders of Swiss and Swedish passports were dragged by Arrow Cross youths into a synagogue on Tabak Street, where they were brutally beaten and their "security passports" torn up. They were then sent to the premises of a brick factory which was the center where all Jewish slave laborers were herded under the open sky.

Hundreds of Jews Become Insane; Many Died of Disease

At the same time, members of the Arrow Cross organization continued their raids on Jewish homes in the ghetto and plundered everything which was of value, leaving the aged and the sick to sleep on the bare wooden floors of crowded houses and in dark unventilated basements. Many hundreds of Jews became insane, others died of epidemic diseases which developed in the ghetto. No medical aid was available.

During the Arrow Cross raids Jews were murdered by the hundreds. What has happened to those who were taken to work on fortifications around Budapest is not known. Up to today no information is available as to their fate. It is assumed that many of them were among the 100,000 Budapest Jews who, early this month, were driven on foot to the Austrian frontier and perished either en route, or in the woods at the Austro-Hungarian border after the Germans selected only 2,000 as fit for labor in copper mines.

RUSSIA STARTS REPATRIATING RUMANIAN JEWS FROM TRANSMISTRIA; 2,000 TO LEAVE NEXT WEEK

BUCHAREST, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Gen. Sergei Vinogradov, head of the Russian Armistice Commission in Rumania, today informed Jewish leaders here that the first of the 9,000 Rumanian Jews who are to be repatriated from Transnistria to their homes in Rumania will leave Russian territory next week. The initial group will consist of 2,000 persons.

The repatriation of the Rumanian Jews has been instituted at the request of Jewish leaders in Bucharest who submitted a memorandum requesting the transfer to the Russian Armistice Commission. The Jews to be repatriated are the remnants of the thousands of Jews deported to Transnistria by the pro-Nazi Rumanian regime of Gen. Antonescu.

A commission appointed by the present Rumanian Government will receive the repatriated Jews and will assist in their readjustment. The commission includes representatives of the Union of Jews of Rumania. It is estimated that at least \$400,000 will be needed to support the Jews during the first few months after their return. The funds are expected to be allotted by the Joint Distribution Committee.

Formation of a rabbinical school was announced here today by the Association of Rabbis from Poland, Hungary and Rumania. Among the teachers is the noted Rabbi Halberstam of Bobov in Poland.

DR. WISE ISSUES STATEMENT EXPLAINING HIS RESIGNATION FROM ZIONIST EMERGENCY COUNCIL

NEW YORK, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Dr. Stephen S. Wise, who last week offered his resignation as co-chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council, issued a statement today explaining the reasons for his action. The statement follows:

"One week ago I resigned the office of Chairman of the American Zionist Emergency Council. I did so because, as I stated in my letter of resignation, 'I felt that it was impossible for me to remain chairman of a body one of the leaders of which--the chairman of the executive committee -- had deliberately and persistently contravened the decisions of the Council in a matter of supreme importance to the lasting hurt of our sacred cause.'

"At Wednesday's nearly all-night session of the Emergency Council, the resignation was not acted upon, but a motion was passed inviting all the officers of the executive committee to resign, in order that it might be free to act upon all resignations at the same time. I believe a meeting is to be held in the near future. I could not return to the service of the Zionist Emergency Council unless the reconstituting of the Council gave assurance that no officer would again be permitted to contravene its considered and final decisions."

Dr. Wise would make no further comment. A meeting of the Zionist Emergency Council will be held on Thursday evening at which the question of whether or not to accept the resignations offered by Rabbi Wise and by Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver will be discussed.

JEWISH NATIONAL COUNCIL PROTESTS SATURDAY WORK FOR EMPLOYEES OF PALESTINE GOVERNMENT

JERUSALEM, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The Jewish National Council of Palestine voted today to send a memorandum to the Government protesting against the fact that Jewish employees of certain public projects were being compelled to work on Saturdays and other holidays. The memorandum will point out that the Mandate guarantees free observance of religious holidays by all sections of the population.

At the same time, the Council decided to send a delegation to High Commissioner Viscount Gort to seek clarification of the Government's policy on arms bearing. The Jewish community is disturbed at the recent stiff sentences imposed on Jews who, the authorities admitted possessed arms only to defend their homes and who were not members of any terrorist group.

Addressing the Council, Elishu Golomb, who is in charge of its Mobilization Department, said that "the Palestine Government must realize that such acts create an intolerable situation. The Yishub will never give up its right to self-defense and will never consent to be treated as terrorists or even worse."

Isaac Ben-Zvi was re-elected president at today's session and David Remez, general secretary of the Histadruth, was named chairman.

TRIAL OF MOYNE ASSASSINS WILL OPEN IN CAIRO IN JANUARY; COURT APPOINTS LAWYERS

CAIRO, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The trial of the two assassins of Lord Moyne, late British Minister of State in the Middle East who was murdered here on November 6, will open on January 10, it was announced today. The youths will be defended by two prominent lawyers appointed by the Egyptian Government since foreign lawyers are not permitted to practice in Egyptian courts.

ONLY 35 JEWISH CHILDREN SURVIVE IN POLISH TOWN WHERE THOUSANDS LIVED

MOSCOW, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Only 35 of the several thousand Jewish children who resided in the Galician town of Drohobych, in Poland, were still alive when the Red Army liberated the city, it is reported here today.

These 35 were saved mainly by friendly non-Jews who sheltered them in their homes or schools. One Jewish woman who succeeded in remaining hidden together with her young daughter in a house where members of the Elite Guards were quartered told a Russian correspondent how for several months she forbade her child to speak for fear she would be overheard and murdered.

Many of the surviving children do not remember their names or have forgotten how to speak Yiddish, the correspondent reveals. When one little boy was asked his name by Gen. Ivan Petrov, commander of the Fourth Ukrainian Front, he replied "Stasek." His non-Jewish teacher, however, told the general that the child's name was "Chaim," but for three years he had been schooled to reply "Stasek," if anyone asked him who he was.

ANTI-SEMITIC LITERATURE DISTRIBUTED IN CATHOLIC CHURCHES IN MEXICO

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Racial and pro-fascist literature such as the magazine "Sinarquista," organ of the outlawed Sinarquist Party, are being openly distributed in many churches in Mexico, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency has learned.

Recently, there appeared a special edition of a Catholic publication entitled "Intentions of the Apostolate of Orison." Although presumably an innocent theological work, the volume is filled with anti-Semitic slurs. The Jews are described in it as "a damned people," who have an alliance with Free Masonry and Communism for the purpose of destroying Christian civilization.

MASS RESIGNATIONS OF JEWS FROM PALESTINE POLICE PREVENTED BY WAGE INCREASE

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Threatened mass resignations of Jews from the Palestine police force because of the inadequate wages have been prevented by a decision of the Palestine Government to raise salaries. At the same time, the Inspector General of police has appealed to Jews to join the force.

FEKARSKY NAMED DIRECTOR OF NEWARK JEWISH AGENCIES

DETROIT, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Herman M. Fekarsky, former acting executive director of the Jewish Welfare Federation of Detroit, has resigned his present post as managing director of the Council of Social Agencies of Metropolitan Detroit to become executive director of the Essex County Council of Jewish Agencies of Newark, N. J.

DOCTOR LOUIS GINZBERG RECEIVES NATIONAL SERVICE AWARD

NEW YORK, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The Phi Epsilon Pi National Service Award was presented today to Doctor Louis Ginzberg, Professor of Talmud and Rabbinics at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. The award, given each year to the person who has made the greatest contribution to Jewish life in America, was presented by Mr. Maurice Jacobs, Grand Superior of the fraternity for 1944 and executive vice-president of the Jewish Publication Society.